

MISSIONS AND FUNCTIONS

Q. What is the meaning of the CIA ?

Why does it exist? Is a secret Agency
compatible with our free and democratic
society?

A. CIA's fundamental and essential role is in collecting, collating, and reporting to U. S. government leaders on the political, economic, social, and military conditions in foreign countries. Our policy-makers cannot be left to do their jobs in the dark. They've got to know the facts. CIA supplies the facts and the estimates of what is likely to happen.

Pearl Harbor taught us the value of and need for the best possible intelligence. This country must never again be caught by surprise, particularly in this day and age when mass destruction could occur so quickly.

The CIA is also responsible for certain types of work that must be done quietly, without fanfare, and without letting the government's official hand show. All countries in this world engage in this kind of thing. For us, this supplements diplomacy. When diplomacy and covert action have accomplished their task, the prospects for peace brighten and the need for the expense and danger of military intervention recede.

Q. What are the duties of the DCI?

What are CIA's specific responsibilities?

What is the intelligence community (USIB)?

A. The duties of the Director, as prescribed by law, derive from the law which established the CIA in 1947. He is the intelligence adviser to the National Security Council and the President. He is the man who must coordinate the total foreign intelligence effort (CIA is only one of several Agencies in the intelligence field.) And, of course, he is Director of the CIA.

The intelligence community is best shown by listing those agencies who comprise the U. S. Intelligence Board, or USIB. Chairman of USIB is the Director of Central Intelligence. USIB members are the Deputy Director of CIA, the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, the head of the intelligence bureau of the State Department, the Director of the National Security Agency and the chiefs of the intelligence components in the FBI, and the Atomic Energy Commission. The heads of Army, Navy and Air Force intelligence meet with USIB as observers.

USIB is in effect a kind of board of directors overseeing the government's foreign intelligence work. It meets weekly; sometimes, in crisis, more frequently. One of its major tasks is the establishment of priority questions in need of answers. Another is the preparation

of national intelligence estimates, the key assessments or appraisals of foreign situations and outlook.

Q. Are the National Intelligence Estimates the responsibility of the Director of Central Intelligence or are they, as some claim, "a common denominator" type of agreement by USIB as a committee?

A. They are the responsibility of the Director of Central Intelligence. The members of USIB who dissent from any part of an NIE make their dissent of record, signing the dissent, so it is known what is not agreed to, and by whom. There can be no "common denominator" under this system.

Q. Is U.S. intelligence accomplishing or failing, improving or declining?

A. No intelligence official worth his salt anywhere in the world would ever claim to be satisfied so long as any questions remain unanswered. But I am convinced that U. S. intelligence is good and getting better. Some of the best minds -- analytic and scientific -- are working in the intelligence field. The importance of intelligence is growing; our ability to develop improved and sophisticated means to acquire

Q. What are the needs of CIA in personnel?

What types of professional people do you have and need? What type of clerical and other non-professional people do you have and need? Do you recruit openly like other government agencies? How many people are there employed by CIA?

A. The CIA is always, day in and day out seeking graduates with advanced degrees from accredited colleges and universities. Intellect and character and willingness to serve one's country bring us generalists in every discipline, specialists with foreign languages, knowledge of foreign countries, men and women with universal minds who in many cases work anonymously while their overt colleagues participate openly in professional societies, write for publication, and keep close contact with their fellow-students. Service with CIA is most rewarding in knowing you are part of the defense of the security of the United States. A quarter of CIA's professional personnel have been with the Agency for more than 15 years and 77% have had 10 years or more of intelligence experience. Like other government agencies and private business concerns, we recruit openly, sending teams to over 300 colleges and universities. We advertise in newspapers, magazines and professional journals. CIA employees come from over 600 different colleges and universities. The number of CIA employees

Q. How good is the opposition?

A. Our "opposition" -- the Communist intelligence apparatus -- is highly skilled and professional. Their operatives are more numerous than ours and they have been active in the field for a longer time than we have. The U.S. didn't really begin to develop an intelligence service until we found ourselves in World War Two and had to have one.

Q. Has the CIA ever been penetrated
by foreign enemy agents?

A. Not to my knowledge. But CIA is never complacent about this despite the fine record. There is elaborate screening and testing of all prospective employees. This is necessary because we know that the Agency is a top target for penetration by the opposition.

Q. Are security leaks or political pressures causes of worry to the CIA?

A. Disclosures of classified information -- inadvertent or otherwise -- are damaging and a source of concern. As to "political pressures," the CIA is politically neutral. Its job, despite politics, is to report facts -- objectively and without passion or coloring. There is no "political pressure" on the Agency, and for their part, Agency personnel are non-political.

Q. Does the Agency have any internal security or police powers within the United States?

A. None, other than to look to the internal security of the CIA. The FBI, under J. Edgar Hoover, is responsible for the internal security of the United States.

Q. Why do some Congressmen and some of the Press criticize the CIA for fulfilling the reasons for which it was established? Are such critics "stupid," uninformed, do they not understand what the Communist nations do to penetrate our secrets? How do you explain the statements by some that the Agency is doing its job well but that it should not exist?

A. Some, I suppose, say these things to get the headlines. Some say them because it is fashionable in some circles to knock the CIA. As the President said recently, when Mr. Helms was sworn in as my successor, "Praised or damned (and we are living in an era where men who spend all their time concerned with the protection of the security of their country are frequently damned more than they are praised) these men must go about their work without standing up for bows and of speaking out in their own defense."

The point is, the CIA does an essential job. I'm proud to have been a part of it. I see an obvious, compelling need for its continued existence and I intend to tell everyone I see how important the work is and how worthy the CIA is of the confidence of the American people.